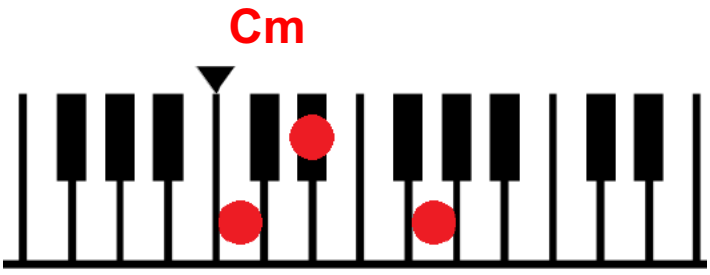
DIMINISHED CHORDS

Diminished chords add a very distinct sound to any tune. The good news is they aren't really THAT difficult to learn.

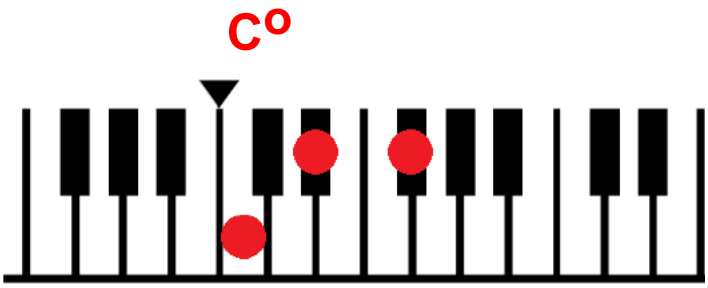
One way to make a diminished chord is to play a MINOR chord (in ROOT position) and move the 5th (your small finger) DOWN one key.

ie. to make **C^{o}** (C diminished)
(which could also be written as Cm^{-5} or Cm^{b5} or Cdim)

First play **Cm**



Then move the 5th DOWN one key to make **C^{o}**



See if you can form **D^{o}, E^{o}, F^{o}, A^{o},**

Remember, make the minor first then drop the 5th down a key

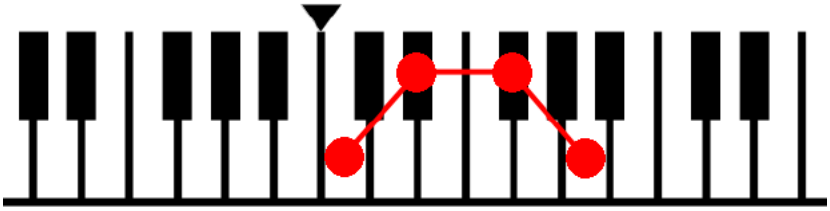
DIMINISHED CHORDS

ALL YOU NEED TO LEARN ARE 3 SHAPES

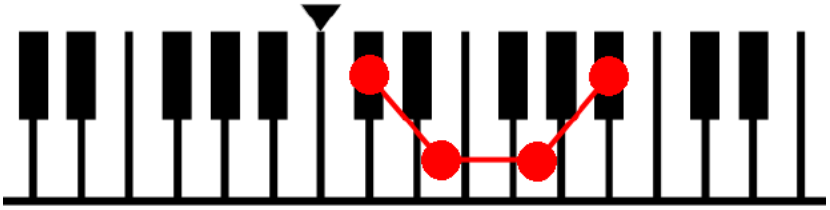
Another very useful thing to remember about diminished chords is that they connect up in a most GEOMETRIC way

Notice how the groups of four diminished chords on the left ALL fit into the ONE shape to their right. Check it and see for yourself!

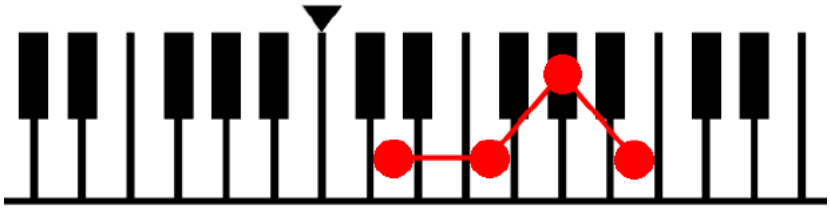
C^o = C Eb Gb
Eb^o = Eb Gb A
$F\#^o$ = F# A C
A^o = A C Eb



Db^o = Db E G
E^o = E G Bb
G^o = G Bb Db
Bb^o = Bb Db E



D^o = D F Ab
F^o = F Ab B
Ab^o = Ab B D
B^o = B D F



So if you MEMORISE these 3 SHAPES you can easily play ANY diminished chord

Diminished Chords - Practice Progressions

Rhythm- Left note / Right chord (YOU MAKE ME FEEL SO YOUNG)

C	C# dim	Dm	G	Keep repeating

Rhythm - Left note/Right chord (TUXEDO JUNCTION "Way down South..")

G Bkds	G/B	C	D	G	G/B	C	D
G	G/B	C	C#^{o}	D	D	G	

Rhythm - Half Beat Bounce (SHE - Charles Aznavour)

D		Fdim		G		D	B	Em		B^{b}dim	
D	Bm	Em	A	D							

Rhythm - Left note / Right chord ('AINT MISBEHAVING)

C	C#dim	Dm	D#dim	Em	Fdim	F	Fdim
Em	Am	Dm	G	C			

Rhythm - Bossa Nova Bounce (MY SWEET LORD - George Harrison)

A	Em	A	Em	A	Em
A	D	Bm	D	Bm	D
Ebdim	Em	A	Em	A	etc

Rhythm - Oom Pah (LIFE IS A CABARET OLD CHUM - Liza Minnelli)

D	A7	D	A7	D	Dmaj7	D7	D7
G	G#dim	Dmaj7	B7	Em7	A7	D	D

*The above progressions are for improvisational purposes only.
You can purchase sheetmusic at www.sheetmusicdirect.com or www.musicnotes.com